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Gregory Phillip Ruhlander

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BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

28 STATE STREET

28th FLOOR

BOSTON, MA 02109-9601

EXAMINER

JOHNSON, VICKY A

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 3 is indefinite because it is unclear if the "projection is the same as the projection of claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-14 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reeder (US 4,682,513).

Reeder discloses a conduit (26), a flexible core element (22) extending through the conduit, an elongate body (12) having a bore disposed longitudinally there through and an abutment end (see Fig 2), a first arm (48) unitary with and extending from the elongate body in a plane (see Fig 2), having a proximal end and a distal end and comprising a first projection (outer end of 48) from a surface of the first arm (see Fig 2), and a second arm (48) unitary with and extending from the elongate body in a plane

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(see Fig 2), having a proximal end and a distal end and comprising a second projection (outer end of 48) from a surface of the second arm, wherein the first arm comprises a first tab member (46) extending from the distal end of the first arm in a direction offset from the plane of the first arm (see Fig 2) and wherein the second arm comprises a second tab member (46) extending from the distal end of the second arm in a direction offset from the plane of the second arm (see Fig 2), wherein the first tab member and the second tab member each facilitate flexure of the first arm and the second arm, respectively, when the first tab member and the second tab member are moved toward the longitudinal axis of the bore (see Fig 2), the first tab member and the second tab member extend from the first arm and the second arm, respectively; in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the bore (see Fig 2), a retaining member (40).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 16-21 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vicky A. Johnson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7106. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:00a-3:30p).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on (571) 272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Vicky A. Johnson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3682